

wherein

m and n independently are each 0-20,

k, l, q and r are each independently [is] 0 or 1,

R is [hydrogen, optionally] H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl,  
OR<sup>1</sup>-substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or CH<sub>2</sub>COOR<sup>1</sup>,

R<sup>1</sup> is [hydrogen] H, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or benzyl [,] ;  
and

is a hydrogen atom and/or a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83 [,] ;

with the provisos that:

at least two of the substituents X represent a metal ion equivalent; [that]

one of the substituents Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen and the other is not hydrogen; [and that] *(can be -CH<sub>3</sub> & (H, is now))*

when n and l each are 0, then k and r are not each simultaneously 1; [that]

*Claim 6* - (O)<sub>4</sub>-R is not -OH; [and that]

Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> are not -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-COOCH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> or -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>5</sub>-COOCH<sub>2</sub>C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub> [,] ;

Z<sup>1</sup> is not phenyl when Z<sup>2</sup> is H; and

at least one of q and l is 1;

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof with an inorganic and/or organic base, an amino acid or an amino acid amide.

**Claim 4, line 2:** Change "CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>," to  
-- -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub>, --.

**Claim 5, line 2:** Change "CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>," to  
-- -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-OCH<sub>3</sub>, --.

*F 8.* (Amended.) A method of claim 2, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

*F 9.* (Amended.) A method of claim 4, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

*F 10.* (Amended.) A method of claim 5, wherein at least [one] three X [is] groups represent a Gd ion.

*Sub F<sup>2</sup>*

9. (Amended.) [Gadolinium] A compound of claim 1,  
wherein said compound is:

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-  
4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically  
acceptable salt thereof;

euroium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiolog-  
ically acceptable salt thereof;

iron(III) complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiolog-  
ically acceptable salt thereof;

bismuth complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-  
4-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically  
acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-5-(4-methoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiolog-  
ically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-[4-(4-methoxybenzyl)benzyl]undecanedioic acid or a  
physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

[gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid;

ytterbium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-benzylundecanedioic acid;]

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-benzylmethoxyundecanedioic acid or a physiolog-  
ically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-(4-carboxymethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a phys-  
iologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologic-  
ally acceptable salt thereof;

euroium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxy-  
methyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiolog-  
ically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

euroium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-butoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

euroium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof;

iron complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-benzyloxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof [each a compound of claim 1].

*Sub F3*  
11. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an NMR image comprising administering to a patient a compound of claim 1, wherein at least [one] ~~two~~ X [is] groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70.

12. (Amended.) A method of enhancing an X-ray image comprising administering to a patient a compound of claim 1, wherein at least [one] ~~two~~ X [is] groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83.

Claim 16, line 15: Change "57-83," to -- 58-70, --.

Please add the following new claims:

17. A compound according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the X groups represent a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 58-70.

*14*  
F 18. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein two of the X groups represent manganese(II), iron(II), cobalt(II) or copper(II); or three of the X groups represent chromium(III), praseodymium(III), neodymium(III), samarium(III), ytterbium(III), gadolinium(III), terbium(III), dysprosium(III), holmium(III), erbium(III), or iron(III).

*15*  
F 19. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein Z<sup>1</sup> is -C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub> or -C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>.

*16*  
F 20. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein said compound is gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxyphenyl)undecanedioic acid or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

*17*  
F 21. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein said compound is a complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxyphenylethyl)undecanedioic acid and a metal ion of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

*18*  
F 22. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein R is C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>1-6</sub>-alkyl substituted by -OR<sup>1</sup>.

*19*  
F 23. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein one of Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-(C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>)<sub>1</sub>-(O)<sub>r</sub>-R.

*20*  
F 24. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein one of Z<sup>1</sup> and Z<sup>2</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-O-CH<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>-(O)<sub>r</sub>-R.

*21*  
F 25. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein the X groups which do not represent a metal ion equivalent of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83 are individually lithium, potassium or sodium, or two such X groups are calcium or magnesium.

*22*  
F 26. A <sup>method</sup> compound according to claim <sup>1</sup>, wherein X groups which are not a metal ion equivalent of an element of atomic number 21-29, 42, 44 or 57-83 represent a salt with ethanolamine, diethanolamine, morpholine, glucamine, N,N-dimethyl-